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THAT SURRENDER RUMOR.

While it is probable that the British could not do a wiser thing than to offer an unconditional surrender to the British, the chances of their adopting such a course of procedure is by no means encouraging at this special juncture. The losses and reverses suffered by the Afrianders up to this time are, of course, significant of other and more serious reverses to follow, but they have scarcely been of such a serious nature as to cause alarm among the masses of the Transvaal Republic or to convince the stubborn and hard-headed burghers that the time to yield has arrived.

There have been many surprises in connection with the struggle in South Africa, and, as is frequently the case, the predictions of the wisecracks and infallible prophets, who invariably infect a political crisis, have miscarried. We were confidently informed that the British troops would be overwhelmed and killed off like sheep in the beginning. Quite naturally the British troops have strenuously objected to the fulfillment of this prediction and have displayed such courage and military skill that they have more than held their own, even in the face of superior numbers and the alleged unerring marksmanship of the Boers.

President Kruger has much to discourage him, but the case is no more hopeless now than it was when the first shot was fired, and we fear it will require a good many more reverses to convince the Afrianders that it is time to quit.

Ancient the corn exposition in progress at Peoria, Ill., a town famous for the number and proportions of its distilleries, a Chicago paper says "every man, woman and child is imbued with the spirit of the occasion." What a grand, glooming and peculiar difference there must have been the next morning.

Dewey's Boston speech was only 169 words long. Still, it is more than probable that the people of the country understood him more thoroughly and appreciate him more highly than they do the average statesman who occupies a large portion of his time in telling of his own wonderful ability and accomplishments.

Admiral Watson is the latest victim of that peculiar ill health which has afflicted so many men prominent in official circles since the beginning of the present administration.

The English soldiers may not object to the canned beef, but unless there has been a radical change in the nature of those Kansas mules, they will undoubtedly kick.

It is amusing to note the laborious efforts of the administration papers and henchmen to protect Admiral Dewey from that presidential nomination.

There is undoubtedly room in Newport News for a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Frequent reports are received of the brutality of inhuman monsters toward dumb ani-

mals. If decency, common sense and a proper respect for the feelings of others do not prevent such an occurrence as was witnessed on Lafayette avenue Sunday afternoon, somebody should make it his business to see that the powerful aid of the law is invoked for the protection of the animals who fall into the hands of human brutes.

Ex-Governor Hogg, of Texas, is quoted as saying that it is the duty of the United States "to shoot hell out of the Philippines." If the generally accepted theory concerning the heathen is correct, it looks more like shooting hell into them.

AS YOU LIKE IT.

ORLANDO—"As I remember, it was upon this fashion."

A GAMBLING MAN FROM FOX HILL.

"That fellow I've heard about, that offered to trade his kingdom for a horse," said the Sage of Tin Pat Alley, "must have been a bigger fool than the fellow from Fox Hill that staked his team of mules against a drink at Jack Leonard's saloon, the other day."

"Didn't you hear about it? Why, the fellow with the mules hitched to his farm wagon, he drives up to the saloon and goes in and asks the boss of the place if he's good for a drink; and the saloon man he tells him that he ain't. Then the fellow with the mules allows as how he ain't got any money at present, but he's dead certain he can win a round from the house, if the house will toss the bones or cut the cards with him."

"The boss he walks away at that and tries to get rid of the man with the mules, but the man with the mules doesn't drift away worth a cent. He follows the boss up and insists that he can outthrow or outcut anything that ever walked around Hampton on its hind legs."

"He offers to stake his coat against the drinks for the crowd, and when the boss turns him down on this proposition, he ups and offers to bet his span of mules against the amount of liquor necessary to refresh the assembled gents."

The boss thinks the fellow from Fox Hill is bluffing and makes up his mind to call the bluff. He says to the fellow from Fox Hill, the boss says, 'I'll just take you up, my man, and slaps down a deck of cards on the bar counter quicker'n a wink.'

"The fellow from Fox Hill he never bats an eye."

"Them's my animals, there at the door," he says, "and if you turn up a higher card'n me they're yours. Cut, you son of a gun, cut."

"The boss he reaches down and lifts about a third of the deck, turning up a four of hearts. The stranger and the bunch of settlers around the bar, they all haw-haws and the man with the mules he cuts the cards and turns a six of clubs, throwin' the drinks on the house."

"The barkeeper, he just smiles in a sickly sort of way and hists the bottle from the shelf and sets it down before the gents."

The man from Fox Hill wraps his left forefinger and thumb around the glass, fills it up above the rim, flings the liquor back against his epiglottis, waves his hand to the barkeeper and other gents, climbs into his wagon and drives away as big as life."

"Say, they're talkin' about him over in Hampton yet. He's a bloomin' idler in cowhide boots, all right, but there ain't no gamer sport ever come down the 'pike, to my recollection."

THE RACONTEUR.

Also This So?

When you want good groceries you go to the best grocery store. The same with all other kinds of stores, dry goods, clothing, drugs, meats and bread, and when you are sick and need fine wines and liquors, you go to the best wine and liquor store and that's why the people here all go to the Blue Grass Liquor Company to supply their wants and needs in that line. Their old California wines and pure Old Kentucky Bourbon and Rye is the purest and best in this market. Just give them a trial and be sure that you go to the right house, 216 24th street. Bell phone No. 220. Ask for Major Bryant. 10-21-24

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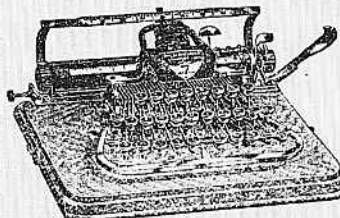
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Newport News

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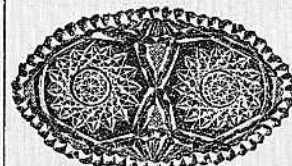
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